United Nations A/67/437

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 December 2012
English
Original: French

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 20

Sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled:

"Sustainable development:

"(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

"(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind;

"(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

"(f) Convention on Biological Diversity;

"(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session;

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/67/437 and Add.1-9.

12-64689 (E) 181212

Please recycle

"(h) Harmony with Nature;

"(i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 23rd to 26th and 28th to 35th meetings, on 7 to 9 and 13, 15, 21, 28 and 30 November and 5, 7 and 11 December 2012. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.23-26 and 28-35). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 8 to 10 October (see A/C.2/67/SR.2-6). Action was taken on the item at the 30th to 35th meetings (see A/C.2/67/SR.30-35). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item is given in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 20
Sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/67/341)

Letter dated 15 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/67/528)

Letter dated 28 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/67/3)

Item 20 (a)
Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General on options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies (A/67/348)

Report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012 (A/CONF.216/16)

Note verbale dated 11 July 2012 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/67/206)

Item 20 (b)
Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of United Nations system support to small island developing States (A/66/218)

Report of the Secretary-General on concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the

Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/66/278)

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/67/313)

Item 20 (c)
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/67/335)

Items 20 (d), (e) and (f)

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/67/295)

Item 20 (g)
Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session

Report of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its twelfth special session (A/67/25)

Item 20 (h)
Harmony with Nature

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Harmony with Nature" (A/67/317)

Item 20 (i)
Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Note by the Secretary-General entitled "Sustainable Energy for All: a Global Action Agenda" (A/67/175)

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, 2012 (A/67/314)

Report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/67/318)

4. At the 23rd meeting, on 7 November, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (under sub-items 20 (a), (b), (h) and (i)); the Special

Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (by way of video link) (under sub-item 20 (c)); the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity (by way of recorded video) (under sub-item (f)); the representative of the New York office of the United Nations Environment Programme (under agenda item 20 and sub-item 20 (g)); and the representative of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (under sub-item 20 (d)) (see A/C.2/67/SR.23).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee also heard video messages by the Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Denzil Douglas, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Seychelles, Jean-Paul Adam (under sub-item 20 (b)) (see A/C.2/67/SR.23).

6. Also at the same meeting, comments were made and questions were posed by the representative of Lebanon (see A/C.2/67/SR.23).

7. At the 24th meeting, on 8 November, an introductory statement was made by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (by way of video link) (under sub-item 20 (e)) (see A/C.2/67/SR.24).

8. At the same meeting, comments were made and questions were posed by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see A/C.2/67/SR.24).

9. At the 25th meeting, on 8 November, statements in the exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic (see A/C.2/67/SR.25).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.4 and A/C.2/67/L.46

10. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Day of Forests and the Tree" (A/C.2/67/L.4), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 61/193 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Forests, 2011,
>
> "*Noting* the useful contribution of national, regional and international actions during the Year to raising awareness at all levels to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations,
>
> "*Considering* that there is currently no globally recognized date for commemorating, carrying out activities on and raising awareness of forests and sustainable forest management beyond the Year,
>
> "*Recalling* the report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its thirty-seventh session and Economic and Social Council decision 2011/250 of 27 July 2011,

"1. *Decides* to proclaim 21 March of each year the International Day of Forests and the Tree, to be observed starting in 2013;

"2. *Invites* all Member States to devote the Day, as appropriate, in the national context, to presenting and promoting concrete activities with regard to forests."

11. At its 32nd meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International Day of Forests" (A/C.2/67/L.46), submitted by the Rapporteur on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.4.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.46 had no programme budget implications.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.46 (see para. 28, draft resolution I).

14. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the European Union (see A/C.2/67/SR.32).

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.46, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.4 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.13 and Rev.1

16. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Oil slick on Lebanese shores" (A/C.2/67/L.13), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 61/194 of 20 December 2006, 62/188 of 19 December 2007, 63/211 of 19 December 2008, 64/195 of 21 December 2009, 65/147 of 20 December 2010 and 66/192 of 22 December 2011 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

"*Reaffirming* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference, in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

"*Emphasizing* the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

"*Taking into account* the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

"*Noting with great concern* the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline, extended to the Syrian coastline and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development, as already highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 61/194, 62/188, 63/211, 64/195, 65/147 and 66/192,

"*Noting* that the Secretary-General expressed grave concern at the lack of any acknowledgement on the part of the Government of Israel of its responsibilities vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill,

"*Recalling* that, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 66/192, it reiterated its request to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, and recognizing the conclusion of the Secretary-General that this request of the Assembly has yet to be implemented,

"*Acknowledging* that the Secretary-General concluded that this oil spill is not covered by any of the international oil spill compensation funds and thus merits special consideration, and recognizing that further consideration needs to be given to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel,

"*Welcoming* the assessment made by the Secretary-General of the value of the United Nations Compensation Commission in handling claims for compensation for environmental damage resulting from the unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, and the conclusion reached that certain cases of claims reviewed by the applicable panel established by the Commission may be relevant to a case such as the present oil slick, providing useful guidance in measuring and quantifying the damage sustained and in determining the amount of compensation payable in respect of it,

"*Noting again with appreciation* the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the clean-up operations and the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

"*Acknowledging* that the Secretary-General has welcomed the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, under its existing mechanism, and expressing concern that to date no contributions have been made to the Trust Fund,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 66/192 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores;

"2. *Reiterates*, for the seventh consecutive year, its deep concern about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese Jiyeh electric power plant, for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;

"3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health, in the country;

"4. *Reiterates its request* to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment, in particular in the light of the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General that there remains grave concern at the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly on the subject vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give further consideration to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel;

"6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assessment made by the Secretary-General of the value of the United Nations Compensation Commission, and welcomes his conclusion that certain cases of claims reviewed by the panel established by the Commission to handle claims for compensation for environmental damage resulting from the unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq may be relevant to a case such as the present oil slick, providing useful guidance in measuring and quantifying the damage sustained and in determining the amount of compensation payable in respect of it;

"7. *Requests*, in this regard, the Secretary-General, capitalizing on the useful guidance provided by certain cases of claims reviewed by the panel of the United Nations Compensation Commission, to appoint, within existing resources, a similar panel in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies, to measure and quantify environmental damage resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at the Jiyeh electric power plant;

"8. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages Member States and the above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

"9. *Welcomes* the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at the Jiyeh electric power plant;

"10. *Notes* that in his report the Secretary-General urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue their

support for Lebanon in this matter, in particular for rehabilitation activities on the Lebanese coast and in the broader recovery efforts, and stated that such international effort should be intensified, since Lebanon is still engaged in the treatment of wastes and the monitoring of recovery, and reiterates its invitation to States and the international donor community to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance, in order to ensure that the Trust Fund has sufficient and adequate resources;

"11. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

17. At its 30th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Oil slick on Lebanese shores" (A/C.2/67/L.13/Rev.1), submitted by Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

18. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

19. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.13/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 152 to 7, with 3 abstentions (see para. 28, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and

[1] The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Colombia, Panama.

20. Before the vote, a statement was made by the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; after the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Israel and Lebanon (see A/C.2/67/SR.30).

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.34 and Rev.1

21. At the 28th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Israel, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America, as well as Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Monaco, Papua New Guinea and Ukraine, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Entrepreneurship for development" (A/C.2/67/L.34), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the commitments to development and poverty eradication emanating from the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions,

"*Welcoming* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want', and recognizing the potential of entrepreneurship to contribute to specific sustainable development objectives,

"*Reaffirming* the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its holistic approach, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,

"*Recalling* the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,

"*Reaffirming* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the agreed conclusions on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session, and stressing that women, particularly in developing countries, are important drivers of entrepreneurship,

"*Noting* the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council on promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Welcoming* the contribution of all relevant partners, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing* the important contribution entrepreneurship can make to sustainable development by creating jobs and driving economic growth and innovation, improving social conditions and confronting environmental challenges, and stressing the importance of promoting entrepreneurship in the context of the consideration of the development agenda beyond 2015,

"1. *Emphasizes* the need for improved regulatory environments and policy initiatives that promote entrepreneurship and foster small- and medium-sized enterprises and microenterprises, and stresses the positive role entrepreneurship plays in driving job creation and expanding opportunities for all, including for women and youth;

"2. *Encourages* Governments to develop and implement policies, taking into account national priorities and circumstances, that address the legal, social and regulatory barriers to equal and effective economic participation and promote entrepreneurship across all sectors and industries, including business and social enterprises;

"3. *Also encourages* Governments to take a coordinated and integrated approach to promoting entrepreneurship, involving all stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, while recognizing that non-governmental stakeholders are the main drivers of entrepreneurship;

"4. *Emphasizes* that partnerships with the private sector play an important role in promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and investment, increasing the revenue potential, developing new technologies and innovative business models and enabling high, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth;

"5. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to provide services to those who have no access to banking, insurance and other financial services, and encourages them to

remove institutional and regulatory barriers, increase access to information and promote financial literacy, particularly for women;

"6. *Encourages* Member States to expand alternative sources of financing and to diversify the banking system to include non-bank channels, including non-bank sources of microcredit and microfinance, stresses the value of a sound regulatory framework in that regard, and encourages the provision of incentives to microfinance institutions that meet national standards for delivering sound financial services to the poor, with a particular emphasis on women;

"7. *Emphasizes* the importance of supporting national efforts aimed at bringing informal workers into the formal economy;

"8. *Recognizes* the value of teaching entrepreneurial skills at all levels of education, ensuring the full and equal participation of women and girls, and encourages entrepreneurship education through skills development, capacity-building, training programmes and business incubators;

"9. *Acknowledges* the role of entrepreneurship in enabling youth to turn their creativity, energy and ideas into business opportunities by helping to facilitate their entry into the labour market;

"10. *Recognizes* that democratic political institutions, transparent and accountable public and private entities, effective anti-corruption measures and responsible corporate governance are key conditions for making market economies and enterprises perform in superior ways and be more responsive to the values and long-term goals of society;

"11. *Acknowledges* that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and support national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of responsible business practices and corporate social responsibility;

"12. *Encourages* countries to consider establishing or strengthening national centres of excellence in entrepreneurship and similar bodies, and also encourages cooperation and networking and the sharing of best practices between them;

"13. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to further recognize and integrate entrepreneurship in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports and to support national efforts in that regard, as appropriate;

"14. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene at the sixty-seventh session a high-level thematic debate, to be held in plenary meeting, to discuss promoting entrepreneurship at the national, regional and international levels;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a view to highlighting best practices in support of entrepreneurship."

22. At its 34th meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Entrepreneurship for development" (A/C.2/67/L.34/Rev.1), submitted by Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America, as well as Albania, Barbados, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Dominica, Guyana, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Norway, Peru, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Seychelles, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Zambia. Subsequently, Vanuatu joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

23. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the revised draft resolution (see A/C.2/67/SR.34).

24. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Israel orally corrected the revised draft resolution (see A/C.2/67/SR.34).

25. Also at its 34th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.34/Rev.1, as orally corrected, by a recorded vote of 129 to 31, with 9 abstentions (see para. 28, draft resolution III). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

Against:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Ecuador, Mali, Mauritius, South Africa, Zimbabwe.

26. Before the vote, a statement was made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic (see A/C.2/67/SR.34).

27. Statements in explanation of vote were made before the vote by the representatives of Oman (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) and Egypt; after the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, Israel and Egypt (see A/C.2/67/SR.34).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

28. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
International Day of Forests

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/193 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Forests, 2011,

Noting the useful contribution of national, regional and international actions during the International Year to raising awareness at all levels in order to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and trees outside forests for the benefit of current and future generations,

Considering that there is currently no globally recognized date for commemorating, carrying out activities on and raising awareness of forests and sustainable forest management beyond the International Year,

Recognizing the many existing regional, national and subnational days and international events across the globe that celebrate and honour all types of forests and trees outside forests,

Noting the report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its thirty-seventh session,[1] and recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/250 of 27 July 2011,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries and General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006,

Noting that the States members of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations supported the establishment of World Forestry Day on 21 March of each year at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 1971,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 21 March of each year the International Day of Forests, to be observed starting in 2013, in order to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests;

2. *Invites* all Member States to devote the International Day, as appropriate in the national context, to presenting and promoting concrete activities with regard to all types of forests and trees outside forests;

3. *Encourages* all Member States to organize activities related to all types of forests and trees outside forests, such as tree planting campaigns, at the time most appropriate to each State;

---

[1] See *Report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Thirty-seventh Session, Rome, 25 June-2 July 2011* (C 2011/REP).

4. *Requests* the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the implementation of the International Day, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes as well as relevant major groups, stresses that the costs of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions, subject to the availability and provision of voluntary contributions for this specific purpose, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventieth session, a focused and concise report on activities resulting from the implementation of the present resolution which elaborates, inter alia, on the evaluation of the International Day of Forests.

Draft resolution II
Oil slick on Lebanese shores

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/194 of 20 December 2006, 62/188 of 19 December 2007, 63/211 of 19 December 2008, 64/195 of 21 December 2009, 65/147 of 20 December 2010 and 66/192 of 22 December 2011 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference,[1] in which States were requested to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] especially principle 16, in which it was stipulated that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[3]

Noting with great concern the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline, extended to the Syrian coastline and hindered efforts to achieve sustainable development, as already highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 61/194, 62/188, 63/211, 64/195, 65/147 and 66/192,

Noting that the Secretary-General expressed grave concern at the lack of any acknowledgement on the part of the Government of Israel of its responsibilities vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill,

Recalling that, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 66/192, it reiterated its request to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, and recognizing the conclusion of the Secretary-General that this request of the Assembly has yet to be implemented,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General concluded that this oil spill is not covered by any of the international oil spill compensation funds and thus merits special consideration, and recognizing that further consideration needs to be given to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel,

Welcoming the assessment made by the Secretary-General of the value of the United Nations Compensation Commission in handling claims for compensation for

---

[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972* (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one, chap. I.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

environmental damage resulting from the unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, and the conclusion reached that certain cases of claims reviewed by the applicable panel established by the Commission may be relevant to a case such as the present oil slick, providing useful guidance in measuring and quantifying the damage sustained and in determining the amount of compensation payable in respect of it, while keeping in mind that the United Nations Compensation Commission does not have a potential role to play in securing compensation for the present oil slick,

Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the clean-up operations and the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

Acknowledging that the Secretary-General has welcomed the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, under its existing mechanism, and expressing concern that to date no contributions have been made to the Trust Fund,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 66/192 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores;[4]

2. *Reiterates*, for the seventh consecutive year, its deep concern about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese Jiyeh electric power plant, for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;

3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health, in the country;

4. *Reiterates its request* to the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores have been partially polluted, for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment, in particular in the light of the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General that there remains grave concern at the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly on the subject vis-à-vis reparations and compensation to the Government and people of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic affected by the oil spill;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give further consideration to the option of securing the relevant compensation from the Government of Israel;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assessment made by the Secretary-General of the value of the United Nations Compensation Commission, and takes note of his conclusion that certain cases of claims reviewed by the F4 Panel

[4] A/67/341.

established by it may be relevant to a case such as the present oil slick, providing useful guidance in measuring and quantifying the damage sustained and in determining the amount of compensation payable in respect of it;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General in this regard, capitalizing on the useful guidance provided by certain cases of claims reviewed by the F4 Panel, to consider taking appropriate measures, within existing resources and in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies, to measure and quantify environmental damage resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at the Jiyeh electric power plant;

8. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages Member States and the above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

9. *Welcomes* the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund, based on voluntary contributions, to provide assistance and support to the States directly adversely affected in their integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of the oil storage tanks at the Jiyeh electric power plant;

10. *Notes* that in his report the Secretary-General urged Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue their support for Lebanon in this matter, in particular for rehabilitation activities on the Lebanese coast and in the broader recovery efforts, and stated that such international effort should be intensified, since Lebanon is still engaged in the treatment of wastes and the monitoring of recovery, and reiterates its invitation to States and the international donor community to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize international technical and financial assistance, in order to ensure that the Trust Fund has sufficient and adequate resources;

11. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

Draft resolution III
Entrepreneurship for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the commitments to development and poverty eradication emanating from the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] and the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,[2] the 2010 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[3] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions,

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[4] and recognizing the potential of entrepreneurship to contribute to specific sustainable development objectives,

Reaffirming the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[5] in its holistic approach, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[6]

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2011-2020,[7]

Recalling also the Beijing Declaration[8] and Platform for Action,[9] and the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, adopted at its fifty-fifth session,[10] and stressing that women, particularly in developing countries, are important drivers of entrepreneurship,

Taking note of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council on "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals",[11]

---

[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] Resolution 60/1.

[3] Resolution 65/1.

[4] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[5] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[7] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[11] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/67/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 139.

Welcoming the contribution of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, to the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing the important contribution entrepreneurship can make to sustainable development by creating jobs and driving economic growth and innovation, improving social conditions and contributing to addressing environmental challenges, and stressing the importance of giving appropriate consideration to the promotion of entrepreneurship in the context of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda,

1. *Emphasizes* the need for improved regulatory environments and policy initiatives that promote entrepreneurship and foster small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as microenterprises, and stresses the positive role entrepreneurship plays in driving job creation and expanding opportunities for all, including for women and youth;

2. *Encourages* Governments to take a coordinated and inclusive approach to promoting entrepreneurship involving all stakeholders, while noting initiatives of civil society, academia and the private sector as important entrepreneurship drivers, and to develop policies, taking into account national priorities and circumstances, that address the legal, social and regulatory barriers to equal, effective economic participation, and stresses the need for a comprehensive approach to entrepreneurship that includes support from development partners in the areas of technology transfer on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, finance and capacity-building, with a focus on education and skills development;

3. *Acknowledges* the important role trade plays in enhancing the capacity of enterprises, and reaffirms in this regard the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development as they advance towards sustainable development;

4. *Emphasizes* that partnerships with the private sector play an important role in promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and investment, increasing revenue potential, developing new technologies and innovative business models and enabling high, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth while protecting the rights of workers;

5. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to reach out to those who have no access to banking, insurance and other financial services, and encourages them to adopt regulatory and supervisory frameworks that facilitate the safe and sound provision of services to such populations, increase access to information and promote financial literacy, particularly for women;

6. *Encourages* Member States to expand alternative sources of financing and diversify the retail financial service system to include non-traditional providers of financial services, such as microcredit and microfinance, stresses the value of a

sound regulatory framework in this regard, and also encourages the provision of incentives to microfinance institutions that meet national standards for delivering sound financial services to the poor, with particular emphasis on women;

7. *Emphasizes* the important role of national efforts aimed at bringing informal workers into the formal economy and integrating them into national social security systems;

8. *Recognizes* that technological improvement, particularly through the diffusion of technology, can provide new opportunities for businesses to improve their competitiveness, and in this regard encourages Member States to increase cooperation in support of technology exchange and transfer, innovation and capacity-building programmes for promoting entrepreneurship;

9. *Also recognizes* the value of teaching entrepreneurial skills at all levels of education, ensuring the full and equal participation of women and girls, and encourages entrepreneurship education through skills development, capacity-building, training programmes and business incubators;

10. *Acknowledges* the role of entrepreneurship in enabling youth to turn their creativity, energy and ideas into business opportunities by helping to facilitate their entry into the labour market;

11. *Recognizes* that democratic political institutions, transparent and accountable public and private entities, effective anti-corruption measures and responsible corporate governance are key conditions for making market economies and enterprises more responsive to the values and long-term goals of society;

12. *Acknowledges* that the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and support national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of responsible business practices and corporate social responsibility;

13. *Encourages* the international community to support the efforts of countries to promote entrepreneurship and foster the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and microenterprises, taking into account the challenges and opportunities of increased trade liberalization;

14. *Also encourages* countries to consider establishing or strengthening national centres of excellence in entrepreneurship and similar bodies, and further encourages cooperation and networking and the sharing of best practices between them;

15. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to further recognize and integrate entrepreneurship in its various forms into their policies, programmes and reports, and to support national efforts in this regard, as appropriate;

16. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, to convene a high-level thematic debate, to be held in plenary meeting, to discuss promoting entrepreneurship in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication at the national, regional and international levels, and the role of the United Nations and the international community in this regard;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the progress made in implementing the present resolution, including highlighting best practices and identifying possible measures which could be taken at all levels in support of entrepreneurship.